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LOGNOTE -- Chief, Operations Group, 28 February 1985

1. [] called this morning to follow up on yesterday's conversation about the bureau property. He checked the details of land acquisition with the embassy and found that the Ambassador preferred a lease unless there was some decisive cost advantage in favor of purchase. Chuck said he has had prepared a cable detailing the lease versus purchase situation, as described yesterday, and had made a weak recommendation in favor of purchase on the basis of a number of "intangibles." I said we really were strongly in favor of leasing, hadn't heard any compelling arguments to the contrary, and that we weren't prepared to deal with intangibles which appeared to be in the "might or might not happen" category. I told him to abort his cable if it hadn't already been released.

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Chuck now wants a message from us saying that we have definitely decided in favor of leasing. He will then inform the Archbishop's representatives and a gentleman's agreement will be struck. At that point a lease will be drawn up in English based on an embassy model and sent to Headquarters where it can be reviewed by OGC. Chuck understands he is not to sign anything until he has received contracting authority and Headquarters has notified him that the lease has been accepted.

(cc: D/FBIS, C/ED, AC/AS)

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